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EXPLAINS APPOINTMENT OF TSANKOV
AS NEW MINISTER OF INTERIOR

Georgi Tsankov, who was appointed Bulgarian Minister of the Interior on 6 January 1951, was born in 1909 in Mokren and went to Moscow in 1932 to study at the Lenin International School. A member of the Politburo since 1944, he was appointed president of the State Control Commission in 1947, later deputy secretary-general of the Bulgarian Communist Party, and, in 1949, Minister of Transportation. He is a tough man and a fanatical Communist. These characteristics explain his appointment to the Ministry of the Interior.

According to information from Bulgaria, peasant resistance to the socialization of land is still fierce. The farmers who were forced to enroll in cooperatives are performing their work in the fields and livestock chores with complete indifference and do not care in the least whether the animals are starving. On the other hand, to make up for their exploitation by the state, they are trying to take every advantage of state property, and the recent law for the protection of that property has been a direct outcome of this attitude.

Tsankov was the right man to handle this difficult situation, which is aggravated by the new political conditions created by American resistance in Korea, American and European rearmament, and the general strengthening of Western European resistance to the policies of Moscow. The Bulgarian Communists are afraid of war and its threat to international Communism. As an outcome of this attitude, a few of them are attempting some timid gestures of reconciliation towards the opposition groups. Such attempts had to be cut short by terror, and Tsankov was best suited for the job. Finally, in case of war, Moscow would need a man on whom it could rely completely and who could maintain order and discipline in the country.

Tsankov's appointment to the Ministry of the Interior implies a reinforcement of the rule of terror under Soviet surveillance. The minister's political commissar is Khristo Boev, former high-ranking Comintern functionary, who had been in charge of some difficult assignments in the Far East and, until 1948, served as charge d'affaires in London.

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